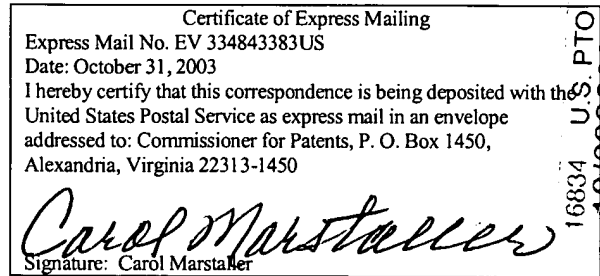


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re patent application of: Leonard Stevens et al.

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR CLOSING A SEVERED STERNUM

Mail Stop Patent Application  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450



**PATENT APPLICATION TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Transmitted herewith for filing, please find the following:

- ☒ Specification, claims and abstract of the above-referenced patent application (total of 20 pages)
- ☒ 5 sheet(s) of drawing(s) formal) Figures 1-7.
- ☒ Combined Declaration and Power of Attorney (Unsigned).
- ☐ An Assignment of the invention to:
- ☒ Applicant(s) claim(s) small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 1.27.
- ☒ Other (specify):
1. Relationship of Claims in Present Application to U.S. Patent Application No. 10/095,324
  2. Check in amount of \$427.00 as filing fee
  3. Acknowledgment postcard .
- ☒ This application is a:
- ☒ Continuation
- ☐ Divisional
- ☐ Continuation-In-Part

of prior co-pending parent application Serial No. 10/095,324 filed on March 7, 2002, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent No. 6,540,769, filed on October 31, 2001.

In the event that a petition to extend time under 37 CFR 1.136 is necessary in the parent application to maintain copendency for this application, a petition for an extension of the necessary time to maintain copendency is hereby requested for the parent application and the Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit our Account Number 10-0447 for the necessary fees.

The filing fee has been calculated as shown below:

FOR: <u>SMALL</u> ENTITY	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA	RATE	FEE
BASIC FEE				\$385
TOTAL CLAIMS	19- 20	0	\$9	\$
INDEPENDENT CLAIMS	4- 3	1	\$42	\$ 42
MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIM(S) PRESENTED			\$260	\$ _____
TOTAL FEE:				\$427

       Please charge my Deposit Account No. 10-0447 in the amount of \$      

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  X   The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of the following fees during the pendency of this application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 10-0447.

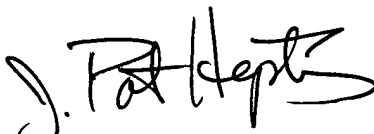
  X   Any patent application processing fees under 37 CFR 1.17 and under 37 CFR 1.20(d).

       The issue fee set in 37 CFR 1.18 at or before mailing of the Notice of Allowance, pursuant to 37 CFR 1.311(b).

X Any filing fees under 37 CFR 1.16 including fees for presentation of extra claims.

Respectfully submitted,

JENKENS & GILCHRIST, P.C.

By: 

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Dear Sir:

**RELATIONSHIP OF CLAIMS IN PRESENT APPLICATION TO U.S. PATENT  
APPLICATION NO. 10/095,324**

Claims 1-19 of the present application have been copied from the claims of pending U.S. Patent Application No. 10/095,324 for the purpose of provoking an interference proceeding between the present application and U.S. Patent Application No. 10/095,324.

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